

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Mike Maginot – St. Stephens Martyr Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

President Hardaway acknowledged May 12th is Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.

The Town received a request for approval of a large gathering permit for St. Elijah Serbfest.

Chief Petrush said that Lake County will handle security. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 10, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

A brief discussion took place regarding the status of the salary analysis & feedback from FOP. Mr. Pettit scheduled a Budget & Finance Committee meeting on May 24th at 5:30 p.m. in an effort to resolve this matter.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich thanked various businesses for their donation of trees which were planted at the Arbor Day event. Ms. Orlich said that the Town sponsors a girl softball team named Illinois Fire and that the team practices at Stefek Park. The team coach is a member of International Union of Painters and arranged for painters to come and do some improvement painting at the park. Ms. Orlich intends to display a sign at this location thanking the International Union of Painters for their kind donation. Ms. Orlich went on to provide the Council with updates related to upcoming programs, news and various maintenance issues. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pettit said that due to clearing of the bike path, there is a huge wood pile located at 73rd & Broadway. There is a public information meeting scheduled Tuesday, May 17th at 5:30 p.m. for the residents regarding this matter. Mr. Spires mentioned that letters were sent out last week informing residents of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron said that John Minear, Director of Lake County Solid Waste Management is interested in attending the next Town Council workshop in an effort to resolve matters related to the recycle center's.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway provided updates regarding the status of various blighted properties. A discussion took place related to the removal of structure that was an old deli located on the west side of Broadway across from Maxim's Restaurant.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-12: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, creating a budget line item within the Parks General budget (retroactive to 5-1-16). Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 16-13: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, amending the Rental Housing Fund to permit its use for town disaster response, creating a Town Disaster Response Fund, establishing a Town Disaster Response Program, transferring funds from the Rental Housing Fund to the Town Disaster Response Fund and appropriating funds from the Town Disaster Response Fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Discussion followed regarding creating a resource guide that includes useful information that can be provided to victims anytime a disaster should occur. All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Vernon Smith, Indiana State Representative, discussed the latest 2016 State Legislation session. Dr. Smith provided a hand out of legislation enacted information from January through March 2016. Dr. Smith reviewed various bills that may be of interest to the town. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, May 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
C&O bike trail public meeting, May 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop, May 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Plan Commission meeting, May 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Zoning Appeals workshop, May 18, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, May 19, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Budget & Finance Committee meeting on May 24, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Town Council meeting, May 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mrs. Barron.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer